

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Claims 11, 14-36, 50-162 and 164 are canceled in view of applicant's amendment filed 10 January 2008. Claims 41-42, 47-48 remain withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, claims 1-10, 12-13, 37-40, 43-46 and 49, 163 and 165-182 are currently under examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" section of the specification has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial No. 10/038,274, filed January 4, 2002, **now US Patent NO. 7,294,211** and entitled "NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION CONVERSION COATS BASED ON COBALT." This application is also related to U.S. Application Serial No. **10/625,885** (Attorney Docket No. UVD 0279 IA), filed **July 23, 2003, now US Patent No. 7,291,217 B2,** and entitled "NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION PIGMENTS BASED ON RARE EARTH ELEMENTS", which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/037,576, filed January 4, 2002, **now abandoned,** and entitled "NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION PIGMENTS BASED ON COBALT", and U.S. Application

Serial No. **10/625,886** (Attorney Docket No. UVD 0299 IA), filed **July 23, 2003** and entitled "NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION RINSES AND SEALS BASED ON RARE EARTH ELEMENTS", which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/038,150, filed January 4, 2002, **now US Patent No. 7,235,142**, and entitled "NON-TOXIC CORROSION-PROTECTION RINSES AND SEALS BASED ON COBALT", the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Allowance

3. Claims 1-10, 12-13, 37-40, 43-46, 49, 163 and 165-182 are allowed. Withdrawn claims 41-42 and 47-48 are also allowed since they depend on allowed independent claim 1.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest, either alone or in combination, the claimed solid corrosion-inhibiting conversion coating comprising a rare earth/valence stabilizer complex formed from a rare earth element selected from cerium, praseodymium, terbium or combinations thereof and an inorganic valence stabilizer, wherein at least one earth rare element in the rare earth/valence stabilizer complex is in tetravalent state.

5. The declarations under 37 CFR 1.132 filed on 10 January 2008 and 26 June 2007 are sufficient to overcome the rejections of claims 1-10, 12-13, 37-40, 43-46, 49, 163 and 165-182 based upon WO 98/48075, whose English equivalent is Tadokoro et al. US 6,200,672 B1(Tadokoro) alone or Tadokoro in view of Dattilo US 6,291,018 B1(Dattilo).

The declarations filed on 10 January 2008 and 26 June 2007 provide sufficient evidence to show that Tadokoro's rare earth metal complexes do not contain cerium in tetravalent state.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LOIS ZHENG whose telephone number is (571)272-1248. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1793

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roy King/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1793

LLZ
4/1/08